Dear Js, 8/22/72

As a kid I learned to separate things to concentrate by writing in a composing room. So, when I talk my walks, I can have the all-news stations tuned in and ignore what is on unless it interests me. One item this morning only did, that of the $500,000 problem in Republican expenditures. The Post has a long story but I'm certain the few important things will be on the wire and in the Times so I'll not burden you with it and its return. I've read the story. There are several hundred thousand of roughly coinciding unexplained income and expenditure sums, GAO alled the whole thing a mess, there is not the $114,000 already published but $100,000 set up for security and intelligence, and Liddy's lawyer was told by the prosecutor that there was a felony case already in hand against Liddy. Miss is direct quote. And the GAO's report will have to omit what can influence the criminal case.

Of the things I thought about while not listening one is that I responded in too-great haste in explaining or thinking I explained my (lack of anticipated) reaction to the Aprague sickness and later Mae's. I think several factors are involved, and I also think that as you have been you cancontinue to be helpful here, for yours is a more mature judgement than that of the young ones who have been conditioned by a machine-mold educational system.

There is no doubt that some of my instant reactions are of passion, often anger or acute disappointment. However, I think (and recognize I can't make disapassionate evaluation) that most are controlled and often when I'd be expected to erupt I do not and have not. Thenrecord of productivity is unquestionable, but this is far from proof that continued effort without it also would have been productive. I happen to think that in the productive cases it has been the thing that did it, with the goverbment and with former friends. It was with the Post in 1966, and that is explicit. It was with Lyle Stuart earlier that year, even if he chickened out. For its day, despite the double-croos of me, personally, the Post thing was quite significant. It had much to do with the acceptability of the later books and their authors.

If I sent you all the letters, I think you can distinguish between the degrees of vigor I used in addressing Jerry, Sylvia and Gary. In part this was based on my understanding of the personalities and my desire to provoke differring reactions. In each case it succeeded and largely as I anticipated. Sylvia couldn't face it and the other two blurted out what either came to me directly or fairly promptly indirectly.

And I really did want to rupture relations with all. I still want it to be that way. I fell short of what I could have done with all, most of all with Sylvia, which may seem strange. And in each case, if I any hazard a prediction, I doubt there will ever again be a repetition of this unthinking mess, which I would hope you would regard as a worthwhile objective. I can't conceive of accomplishing this with any of the three with a mild,reasoned approach because each had already "reasoned" and knew, if only subconsciously, that what he was doing was wrong. I think, for example, that Gary's letter to the Archives on this is a pretty throrough if uninteded confession.

On the other hand, where I could look back this a.m., I think I have moderated much. You haven't seen the chapters I did some time ago on AGENT OSWALD, nor what I have written more recently ofTHE DOUBLE DOUBLE CROSS. If I can't write this kind of stuff as fast and as continuously as I must without my feelings also coming out, I think they are coming out it other ways. Perhaps less objectionably to most. The whole thing is complicated by my belief that on such a subject the writer should be polemical and that it does help the comprehension of a rather large proportion of the non-intellectual readers. A rather large correspondence from total strangers seems to bear this out.

I believe this is much on my mind, more often than I perhaps realize and especially because I seek to separate emotions so that I can better cope with the large assortment of other problems we have, in some ways the acute financial ones being the least troubling.

On the clippings I send: Je sent me a list of the things that interest you most. It would take me some time to retrieve that. When she has time I'd appreciate it again. I'll give Lil a copy for when she goes over the paper, which is most of the time now. And I'll send what I want returned 1st class to separate for you and so the accumulation of what I am sending simply on the chance it may hold interest or value won't seem oppressive. Some I send only because I think it will amuse, and because I feel we can use a bit of that in this grim society. Some I don't expect you to read now, merely to put away in the event it has future use, like Potomac in F, the press on the press. Best,